

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A three-dimensional object manipulating technique is provided. An axis of rotation is set for a three-dimensional object (40) on the basis of a push-in of a dial (8) of a dial-operated input device (7), and the three-dimensional object (40) is rotated through a user-defined angle about the set axis of rotation on the basis of a direction and angle of rotation of the dial (8) of the dial-operated input device (7). Also, an axis of movement is arbitrarily set for the three-dimensional object (40) on the basis of a push-in of the dial (8) of the dial-operated input device (7) and moved over a user-defined distance along the set axis of movement on the basis of a direction and angle of rotation of the dial (8) of the dial-operated input device (7). Further, the three-dimensional object (40) is resized at a user-defined scale-up or -down rate on the basis of a direction and angle of rotation of the dial (8) of the dial-operated input device (7). The present invention thus permits the user to make an manipulation, that is, rotation, movement, scale up or down, of the three-dimensional object (40) being displayed with the use of the dial-operated input device (7).